

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 06198 241449Z
ACTION EUR-12

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 6198

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, YO
SUBJ: U.S.-YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL WORKING GROUPS

REF: STATE 209427

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED CONFIRMATION FROM CRNJAK AT FSFA THAT DELAY IN APPROVING TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WORKING GROUPS IS BUREAUCRATIC ONLY, DUE PRIMARILY TO PRESS OF OTHER BUSINESS AT SENIOR LEVEL THIS SUMMER AND AUGUST VACATION PERIOD. HE REITERATED THAT NO DIFFICULTY IS FORESEEN AND THAT OFFICIAL APPROVAL IS LIKELY EARLY IN SEPTEMBER.

2. GIVEN THE CONTINUING UNCERTAINTY REGARDING TIMING OF APPROVAL, WE FULLY AGREE WITH THINKING IN PARAS 2 AND 3 REFTEL. WE BELIEVE AN INFORMAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON IN EARLY SEPTEMBER BETWEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY WEIL AND AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI, AS PROPOSED, WOULD BE HIGHLY USEFUL AS INITIAL PROCEDURAL SESSION PREPARATORY TO FULL-SCALE FORMAL MEETING, WHETHER OF WASHINGTON OR BELGRADE WG, LATER IN THE FALL. IN ADDITION, SUCH A MEETING WOULD HAVE ADDITIONAL BENEFIT COMING BEFORE MR. WEIL'S MID-SEPTEMBER VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA AND THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VISIT OF THE YUGOSLAV BUSINESS DELEGATION LED BY VAKIC TO THE U.S. IN LATE SEPTEMBER.

3. FOR OUR PART, WE HAVE PROPOSED HOLDING SIMILAR INFORMAL MEETING IN BELGRADE BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND YUGOSLAV CO-CHAIRMAN (STILL TO BE NAMED) ON SEPTEMBER 18, WHICH WOULD PERMIT ATTENDANCE BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY WEIL DURING HIS FORTHCOMING

VISIT. ON BASIS OF DISCUSSIONS AT THESE TWO INFORMAL SESSIONS
WE COULD THEN MOVE AHEAD WITH ORGANIZING FIRST FULL-SCALE,
FORMAL MEETING OF EITHER THE WASHINGTON OR BELGRADE WORKING
GROUP (WE HAVE NO STRONG PREFERENCE AT THIS POINT ALTHOUGH IT
STRIKES US THAT A BELGRADE FOLLOW-UP TO THE YUGOSLAV TRADE
DELEGATION VISIT MIGHT BE USEFUL) IN THE FALL TO GET THE
OFFICIAL WORKING GROUP PROCESS UNDERWAY.
WORTZEL

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